

What is claimed is:

1. An airbag device for protecting an occupant of a vehicle, comprising:

5 an airbag having a front portion facing the occupant and a rear portion opposite to the front portion when the airbag is inflated,

an inflator attached to the rear portion of the airbag for inflating the airbag,

10 a retainer attached to the airbag and the inflator and having an insertion port for inserting one end of the inflator, and

15 a shape-maintaining component having a first connecting portion connected to the front portion of the airbag and a second connecting portion attached to a lower part of the retainer for covering the airbag in a folded state so that the one end of the inflator is placed in the insertion port behind the first connecting portion.

2. An airbag device according to claim 1, wherein said first connecting portion of the shape-maintaining component is located above the insertion port.

3. An airbag device according to claim 2, wherein said front portion of the airbag around the connecting portion extends from 25 the front side toward a periphery of the insertion port.

4. An airbag device according to claim 1, wherein said shape-maintaining component includes a tearing portion around the first connecting portion, said tearing portion being tore when 30 the airbag is inflated.

5. An airbag device according to claim 1, wherein said shape-maintaining component includes a main part having said first connecting portion, and said second connecting portion is formed  
5 of a plurality of flaps extending outwardly from the main part and connected to the lower part of the retainer.

6. An airbag device according to claim 5, further comprising a mounting ring disposed inside the airbag and having attaching  
10 members protruding from the mounting ring, said plurality of flaps being attached to the attaching members.

7. An airbag device according to claim 5, wherein said shape-maintaining component further includes a plurality of slits at  
15 the main part, through which parts of the retainer pass.